

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Claims 18 and 20-24 have been allowed, and claims 8, 9, 15-17 and 27 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-7, 10, 11, 14, 19, 26 and 28-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kleider (US 6,487,252). Claims 12, 13 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kleider.

In order to expedite prosecution of the application, claims 1, 12, 14, 26 and 29-33 have been amended so as to include the limitations of claim 8, and claims 19 and 28 have been amended so as to include the limitations of claim 9. Further, claims 8 and 9 have been canceled without prejudice or subject matter contained therein. As a result, claims 1, 12, 14, 26 and 29-33 and the claims that depend either directly or indirectly therefrom are allowable.


In addition, new claims 34 and 35 have been added. New claim 34 contains the limitations of claims 1 and 9, and new claim 35 contains the limitations of claims 29 and 9. As a result, these claims are also allowable.

Also, it is noted that a number of the claims have been amended to make editorial revisions thereto. These revisions have been made to place the claims in better U.S. form. None of these amendments have been made to narrow the scope of protection of the claims, nor to address issues related to patentability and therefore, these amendments should not be construed as limiting the scope of equivalents of the claimed features offered by the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Hideki NAKAHARA et al.

By: 
David M. Ovedovitz
Registration No. 45,336
Attorney for Applicants

DMO/jmj
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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